

VZCZCXRO1794
OO RUEHAO RUEHCD RUEHGD RUEHGO RUEHMC RUEHNG RUEHNL RUEHRD RUEHRS
RUEHTM
DE RUEHMU #1131 3432049
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 092049Z DEC 09
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0254
INFO WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 001131

SIPDIS
STATE FOR WHA/CEN AND WHA/CCA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PASS TO AMEMBASSY GRENADA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PASS TO AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PASS TO AMCONSUL RECIFE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2019/12/09

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [NU](#)

SUBJECT: Cuba's Ambassador to Nicaragua PNGed?

CLASSIFIED BY: RobertJCallahan, Ambassador, State, US Embassy
Managua; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (SBU) Over the weekend, one of Nicaragua's leading dailies (El Nuevo Diario) reported that Cuba's ambassador to Nicaragua (Luis Hernandez C

2. (C) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would not confirm this account to us. The Cuban Embassy confirmed to El Nuevo Diario that its ambassador departed Nicaragua December 4, but stated it was due to health reasons. Orlando Parades, Consul General of the Ecuadorian Embassy in Nicaragua, confirmed media reports that Hernandez had been in Cuba five or six months for health reasons and returned to Nicaragua in November. The Consul General of the fellow ALBA country also told us that his Embassy tried to confirm the media reports surrounding Hernandez' recent departure from Nicaragua, but neither the Foreign Ministry nor the Cuban Embassy would respond to their calls. He commented that the silence from these two institutions leads one to believe that there is probably some truth to the account. He also noted that Cuban ambassadors usually serve for an indefinite period of time, discounting the argument that Hernandez had fully completed his term as ambassador.

3. (C) Comment: If media reports are true that Hernandez was forced to leave due to disagreements with First Lady Rosario Murillo, this would be the third case under the Ortega administration that an ambassador was removed over differences with Murillo. The other two were Venezuelan ambassadors Miguel Gomez and Sergio Rodriguez. Former Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Norman Caldera was unclear if the media reports were true. However, he noted that foreign governments might accept the responsibility once or twice for the failure of their ambassadors, but sooner or later they have to wonder if it's not the host government that's the problem.
CALLAHAN